

Serial No.: 09/683,417
Attorney Docket No.: F-428

Patent

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown below.

Claim 1-25 (canceled).

26. (currently amended) A mailbox for decontaminating mail comprising:
a door for allowing access to the interior of the mailbox;
a decontamination system operatively connected to a controller for
decontaminating mail;
at least one divider for separating mail; and
a keyed start switch for receiving a physical key that is engaged and thereby
used to send a decontamination start signal to the decontamination system.

27. (currently amended) The mailbox of claim 26, wherein
the controller includes a communications device for providing status
information to a remote user.

28-33. (canceled).

34. (currently amended) A decontaminating device including a
decontamination chamber comprising:
a door for allowing access to the interior of the decontamination chamber;
a decontamination system operatively connected to a controller for
decontaminating mail;
at least one divider for separating mail; and
a keyed start switch for receiving a physical key that is engaged and thereby
used to send a decontamination start signal to the decontamination system.

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35. (new) The mailbox of claim 26 further comprising:
reflective shielding operatively connected to the mailbox to prevent UV
radiation from escaping.

36. (new) The mailbox of claim 27 wherein:
the remote user is located inside a home.

37. (new) The mailbox of claim 27 wherein:
the communications device includes a wireless network communications
channel.

38. (new) The mailbox of claim 26 wherein:
the divider is at least partially transparent to UV radiation.

39. (new) The mailbox of claim 34 wherein:
the decontamination system includes a UV source; and
the divider is at least partially transparent to UV radiation.